**Hope Whispers**

**Edited by Janette Fernando and Maree Silver**

***Poetica Christi Press, 2017***

***42 Hawkins Road, Montrose,3765***

***ISBN : 978-0-9941640-6-3***

**Reviewed by Ian Keast**

“ I hope that...” “ We hope in...”

To possess and express *hope* is intrinsic to our being human. Our *hope,* whether as noun or verb, opens to broad and diverse landscape: sun-basking peaks to darkening valleys. We have *hope* in someone or something, be that in – relationship; an idea; a way of life; creation’s richness; a dream; a wish; an event; family; a place; a plan; the arts ; and so on...There is the ‘sure and certain’ *hope* of being in Christ through grace.

To be *hope*-full is to be marked by- anticipation; optimism; desire; expectation; aspiration...And, above all, a longing that whispers*,* (in C.S.Lewis’s words), *that our real goal* *is elsewhere.*

This Anthology contains poems that travel across this varying landscape. They are poems submitted to Poetica Christi’s Competition for 2016, ***Hope whispers.*** As in previous years, the winning poem, “ *Eternity “* and the runner-up, “ *Radicalised” ,* are included, as well as other entries. The Anthology not only contains the “ food “ for our travelling ; it looks good. The striking cover artwork by Nick Costello stirs the imagination; appropriate photographs are also part of the book’s layout.

Once again, PoeticaChristi Press and the Editors, Janette Fernando and Maree Silver, are to be congratulated in producing this fine Anthology. Here are different poems in style and subject, infused with *hope.* Many resonated with this reviewer, but if I had to choose one which embodies many of the varying aspects of *hope –* place, time, feeling, ambience, echoes, longing, and so on, it is, “ *Carillon, Sydney University, “* ( Kate O’Neil ), and these lines, especially, ... *marking time/ until the hour/ when sudden bells/ ring out resurrection./ Listen, wake, rise,/ feel jubilation,/ feel alive./ Ring bells, ring./ Renew. Revive./This is music for the world...* With a quietness and gentleness, this poem, ( as do all the poems ), draws you in, invites you to read...to listen...to look up...and reflect...